SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

SAN FRANCISCO
CALIFORNIA

NINETEEN HUNDRED
THIRTY

Seventy-fifth Annual Report

of the

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

for the

Year Ending February 28, 1930

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE
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Year Ending February 28, 1930.

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MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

Mechanics'-Mercantile Library

Mechanics' Institute Chess and Checker Club

57 Post Street

San Francisco, California

The Library now contains nearly one hundred and nine thousand volumes.
Special attention is given to the division of technology.
Over four hundred periodicals and newspapers are on file.
A chess and checker room is maintained, where smoking is permitted.
Lecture courses are held each season.
Library open daily, 9:00 A. M. to 10:00 P. M.
Sundays and Holidays, 1:00 P. M. to 5:00 P. M.
Chess room, daily, 9:00 A. M. to 10:00 P. M.

TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP

Entrance Fee .....$ 1.00
Half-yearly Dues (in advance)..... 3.00
Life Membership 100.00

Non-residents may use the Library for one month on payment of fifty cents.

A member may introduce a friend (not a resident of the city), who will be allowed the use of the Library rooms for one month.

LIBRARY RULES.

Members may take out four books at a time and extra books on payment of five cents each.

New fiction may be kept one week only. Other books may be kept two weeks and the time may be extended for two weeks longer by giving notice at the Library desk, or by mail or telephone (SUtter 0360). A charge of two cents a day will be made on books kept over time.

Members' requests for books to be purchased will receive careful consideration.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

San Francisco, March 6, 1930.

To the Members of the Mechanics' Institute.

The Mechanics' Institute, founded in 1855, completes the seventy-fifth year of its existence with the year 1930. It is an historic institution, dating from the pioneer days of California, when educational facilities were not as readily available as they are at the present time. It became necessary then to provide the means to train our young Californians in the technical arts and in the knowledge required to follow the useful pursuits of life. When this situation had become so apparent that it had to be met, those sterling men of the pioneer days founded an institution of learning which was unequalled in its day, and which remained prominently identified as such for many decades, until our high schools and great universities of California provided the more extensive means of giving our youth a training in any of the learned professions, or in any branch of them.

When it finally became impossible and impracticable to cope with the many opportunities for obtaining instructions in night schools and university extension classes, the Mechanics' Institute devoted itself to the gathering of literature on all subjects that are of direct interest to the cultured mind, such as history, philosophy, science, poetry, art and the romances of the past and present, together with a special collection of technical books, which is constantly growing, to place at the disposal of the engineer, the craftsman and the technician books of reference and information of the most recent date. It has been the aim of the Institute to make this technical library one of the best equipped to be found anywhere.

Another field of information open to the members of the Institute is the seasonal course of lectures given by prominent literary and scientific men and women, to afford an opportunity to our members to obtain the best and the most recent information on the epoch-making topics of the day.

From the small beginning of this undertaking in 1855 we have before us here what the Mechanics' Institute has become in seventy-five years. It has passed through its trials and vicissitudes; it perished with the destruction of this city in 1906; that is, its holdings were destroyed, but the spirit of the Institute did not perish; it is not perishable. The Institute arose again

from the ashes of the old, as did the Phoenix of a fabulous age, and became what you behold here today. Within a short time due recognition of the historic seventy-fifth birthday will be taken by issuing a suitable publication, illustrated with rare old pictures, of the events that make up the life and the work of the Mechanics' Institute; for this purpose a committee has been appointed of which our fellow trustee, Joseph M. Cumming, is the chairman.

Within the last year noted improvements have been made on the two library floors. It became necessary to rearrange the steel stacks and to increase their capacity, in order to make room for an increase of books; that is, to provide ample space for the growth of the library to the extent of forty thousand additional volumes to be acquired within the next six or seven years.

This rearrangement of the shelving has been done with every forethought; not only to provide more book space but also to add to the appearance of the floors by a better placing of the stacks, and by giving them an ivory colored coating instead of the former dark green, which absorbed light and gave to the two library floors an appearance of gloom which has been removed by the bright coloring. This improvement makes the library rooms not only more attractive, but it affords a better facility for the proper filing, registration and availability of books. A revision of the catalogue system will be taken up in due time to indicate where books may be found on the stacks at the least loss of time.

The lighting of the reading rooms has been greatly improved by changing the color of the book stacks. Nevertheless, we are still experimenting with various marketable fixtures for a still greater improvement in the lighting system, one of which will be installed after a trial has been given to different fixtures which have been recommended. It takes some little time to give a thorough test to each particular one.

The proper ventilation of the reading rooms has had the attention of the committee and the Executive Secretary. While it has been a matter of some difficulty, it has been much improved since its thorough investigation. Efforts are still making to better the conditions. Various methods of ventilation will have to be given a thorough trial in order to ascertain the most effective means of accomplishing the object.

The ladies' retiring room is to be enlarged to twice its

present size; this work, which is in progress now, will be completed within a short time. This will add greater comfort to its visitors, which they will appreciate.

The expense involved in completing these improvements will amount to about 22,500 dollars, which may be considered a good investment, because its purpose is to make the library more attractive, to invite others to become members and to enjoy its privileges which are held out to any one at the modest expense of fifty cents a month.

Still other improvements will be made to increase the library facilities. It takes time to make constructive alterations of an extensive character such as we have had in hand, and allowances must be made therefor. As soon as the constructive changes are fully completed, it will be our object to see that the very best and most recent library methods are effectually established and augmented, with every future improvement and advancement in library work which will make itself manifest in the future anywhere.

The Mechanics' Institute's properties consist of the par value of bonds on hand to the amount of 530,300 dollars; there are also mortgages on San Francisco real estate to the value of 173,200 dollars, together with cash in banks of over 58,000 dollars. The available total of these investments, including the cash, is, in round numbers, 761,500 dollars. The construction of and the improvements made in the Mechanics' Institute's building on Post Street represent a value of 383,000 dollars. Its present value, however, even after deducting depreciation, exceeds the sum named by a considerable amount. The present value of the lot on which the building stands is a comparatively high one. It is difficult to make any estimate of its actual value. For obtaining the exact figures of any individual item you are referred to the Secretary's detailed report.

The cost of maintaining the library, including the purchase of books, during the last year, aggregates a sum somewhat over 73,000 dollars; the receipts were a little less than 25,000 dollars; showing an excess of expenditures of about 48,000 dollars.

The Secretary's report for this year does not show as favorable a condition in this particular case as heretofore, which is due to the fact that over 16,000 dollars have been expended so far in the library improvements, a matter which has been explained to you already in this statement. The money spent in the purchase of books since the year 1906 amounts to a sum of 275,000 dollars, in round numbers, which is at an average purchase of nearly 12,000 dollars a year, or at the average rate of about 950 dollars a month, since 1906.

The membership of the library on March 1, 1930, was 4425, on March 1 of last year, 4336, showing a gain of 89. In this connection your President deems it expedient to state here that every effort should be made to increase the membership. With our present facilities the Institute could very readily accommodate an increase of from fifty to one hundred per cent of the present membership of about 4400. An interest must be awakened in all of us to leave no method untried to obtain new members. The field is a large one, and it is believed that many of our young men and women would join the library if they knew what the library can offer them.

The book list on March 1, 1929, showed a total of 103,123 volumes; during the year 6232 new books were acquired; 658 have been lost in past years and paid for, making up a present total of 108,697 volumes. The circulation for home use during the year shows that 208,552 books were taken out as against 176,174 during the preceding year, a daily average of 580, which is due to the new arrangement introduced during the past year that a member is permitted to take away four books instead of two, as has been the custom heretofore.

During the enlarging and rearranging of the stack system, all the books were removed and thoroughly cleansed before they were put back. This proved to be an important job of some difficulty, but it was accomplished without any interruption of the library traffic.

Our lecture course for the season has been a most interesting one so far. Of the eleven lectures two remain to be given, one on the thirteenth and the last one on the twenty-seventh of this month. The lecturers are well-known men and women, and almost all university professors, that is, experts in the subjects which they explain to their hearers. All lectures were well attended, showing that our members are deeply interested.

In the recent election Mr. H. W. Crozier, who has been a Trustee for many years, although nominated for re-election, preferred not to run again, and in his place Mr. A. V. Guillou was elected as a Trustee. While we are sorry to lose Mr. Crozier, who has been an intelligent and active member of the Board of Trustees, we welcome the newly-elected candidate, and we trust

that he will find it congenial to be one of us, and to work with us for the best interests of the Mechanics' Institute, which has always been the policy of the men who have served it. The re-elected Trustees for the next two years are: Joseph M. Cumming, George U. Hind, James H. Lyons, Constant Meese, William N. Rolph, and Elgin Stoddard. The names of the hold-over members of the Board are Edward H. Benjamin, Lewis F. Byington, Dr. Joseph D. Hodgen, Dr. Arthur W. Scott, H. L. Slosson, Jr., Charles D. Steiger, and Otto Von Geldern.

The past year has been one of serious work and the year before us will be equally so. To the Secretary, Librarian and the working staff the thanks are due for duties faithfully performed. The policy has been this: to make the library efficient and to serve its members to the best of our ability. Every one connected with it is expected to give his time and energy to accomplish the end we have in view. We hope to show you, at the end of another prosperous year, that these assertions have not been vain boasts. It is well known that every member of this Board of Trustees is ready and willing to serve to the best of his ability, and your President wishes to thank them for the spirit which they have always shown in the past.

OTTO VON GELDERN, President.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

For the Year Ending February 28, 1930.

San Francisco, March 6, 1930.

To the Board of Trustees of the Mechanics' Institute,
San Francisco.

Gentlemen:—

I have the honor to present herewith financial statement of the Mechanics' Institute for the year ending February 28, 1930:

March 1, 1929, Cash on deposit in various banks		$ 41,588.87
Cash in contingent funds		450.00
Total Cash		$ 42,038.87

RECEIPTS

Mechanics' Institute Building—rent collections from March 1, 1929, to February 28, 1930		$ 66,481.25	
Interest, Ernest N. Atkins Memorial Fund		30.00	
Interest, James Lick Fund		600.00	
Interest, Commercial and Savings Account		1,628.28	
Interest, Mortgage Receivable Accounts		9,355.97	
Interest, Bonds		26,243.15	
Tax Judgment		126.93	
Suspense Account		5.00	
Library and General Administration:			
Dues	$ 20,407.00		
Entrance Fees	774.00		
Books Paid For	140.54		
Fines and Extra Books	2,954.19		
Sundry	67.16		
		24,342.89	
Received from Investments Accounts:			
Bonds Matured	$ 28,102.50		
Paid on Mortgages Account	1,800.00		
Discount on Bond Purchases	240.16		
		30,142.66	
Total Cash received			158,956.13
			$200,995.00

EXPENDITURES.

Mechanics' Institute Building—operating expenses from March 1, 1929, to February 28, 1930:		
Pay Roll	$ 15,441.85	
Taxes	9,199.55	
Insurance	778.21	
Heat	747.11	
Light and Power	2,845.84	
Water	189.96	
Window Cleaning	385.00	

Supplies	73.48		
Repairs	747.07		
General Expense	1,009.32		
		$ 31,417.39	
Library and General Administration:			
Books, Binding and Periodicals	$ 17,947.28		
Furniture and Equipment	618.90		
General Expense	3,470.40		
Insurance	853.93		
Legal Expense	250.00		
Lectures	1,048.03		
Printing and Stationery	593.80		
Salaries	29,200.50		
Supplies	282.99		
Taxes	53.19		
Monthly Bulletin	496.00		
Rent of Library Rooms	18,720.00		
		73,535.02	
Pension Account		1,057.80	
Library—Alterations Account		5,646.49	
Total			$111,656.70
Investments Account:			
Bonds Purchased		$ 19,900.00	
Premium Paid on Bonds		125.64	
Post Street Building—Cost Account		11,051.02	
Total			$ 31,076.66
Total Cash paid out			$142,733.36
Cash on hand in various banks, Feb. 28, 1930		$ 57,811.64	
Cash on hand in contingent funds		450.00	
Total Cash on hand			$ 58,261.64
			$200,995.00

SUMMARY.

Cash on hand, March 1, 1929		$ 42,038.87
Total Receipts	$128,813.47	
Total Expense	111,656.70	
Excess Receipts		17,156.77
Received from Investments Account		30,142.66
		$ 89,338.30

DISTRIBUTION.

Cash in various banks, Feb. 28, 1930	$ 57,811.64	
Cash in contingent funds	450.00	
Total Cash		$ 58,261.64

Investments made from surplus	20.025.64
Post Street Building Cost Account	11,051.02
	$ 89,338.30

The net amount expended since April 18, 1906, on Books, new Binding and Periodicals has been $274,710.53

The amount paid out for construction, equipment, etc., of the Post Street Building has been 382,811.81

Insurance is carried as follows:

Books	$100,000.00
Furniture	7,500.00
Post Street Building	286,500.00

The Resources of the Mechanics' Institute are as follows:

Post Street lot covered by Mechanics' Institute Building.

First Mortgages for $173,200.00 on San Francisco Real Estate.

Bonds to the par value of $530,301.40, as follows:

$221,000.00	San Francisco, Cal., City Hall 5%.
11,400.00	San Francisco, Cal., Municipal Railway 5%.
5,000.00	San Francisco, Cal., Water 4½%.
3,000.00	San Francisco, Cal., Fire Protection 5%.
29,000.00	San Francisco, Cal., Golden Gate Park 3½%.
3,000.00	San Francisco, Cal., Exposition 5%.
200.00	San Francisco, Cal., Library 3½%.
1,000.00	San Francisco, Cal., Playground 3½%.
3,000.00	San Francisco, Cal., School 4½%.
5,000.00	San Francisco, Cal., School 5%.
7,000.00	Albany, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.
1,357.50	Berkeley, Cal., Municipal Improvement 4½%.
5,000.00	Berkeley, Cal., School District 5%.
1,875.00	Chico, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.
3,000.00	Cloverdale, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.
10,000.00	East Bay Municipal Utilities 5%.
2,000.00	Exeter, Cal., Union High School District 5%.
2,000.00	Gilroy, Cal., School District 5%.
2,000.00	Grass Valley, Cal., High School District 6%.
2,000.00	Hanford, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.
7,500.00	Livermore, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.
10,000.00	Marin Municipal Water District 5%.
1,000.00	Merced Union High School 6%.
4,393.90	Monterey, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.
700.00	Nevada City, Cal., Sewer 6%.
7,000.00	Oakland, Cal., School District 5%.
2,500.00	Oakland, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5½%.
2,000.00	Oroville, Cal., Levee 5%.
500.00	Oxnard, Cal., Water 5%.
5,000.00	Petaluma, Cal., City High School 6%.
150.00	Piedmont, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.
3,000.00	Pittsburg, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.
5,000.00	Placerville, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.

1,000.00 Placerville, Cal., Municipal Street Work 5%.
6,000.00 Placerville, Cal., School District 5%.
4,000.00 Richmond, Cal., Municipal Harbor Improvement 6%.
1,000.00 Richmond, Cal., School District 4½%.
5,000.00 Richmond, Cal., School District 5½%.
2,000.00 Sacramento, Cal., Filtration 5%.
7,000.00 Sacramento, Cal., New Levee 4½%.
5,000.00 Sacramento, Cal., School District 4½%.
5,000.00 Sacramento, Cal., High School District 4½%.
4,000.00 Salinas, Cal., Union High School District 5%.
5,000.00 San Jose, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.
1,000.00 San Luis Obispo, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.
15,000.00 San Luis Obispo, Cal., School District 6%.
1,000.00 San Mateo, Cal., Union High School 6%.
5,000.00 Santa Barbara, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.
1,125.00 Santa Barbara, Cal., School District 4½%.
1,000.00 Santa Maria, Cal., Union High School District 6%.
10,000.00 Santa Rosa, Cal., Union High School District 5%.
1,000.00 Sequoia, Cal., Union High School District 6%.
10,000.00 Stockton, Cal., School District 5%.
2,600.00 Visalia, Cal., Municipal Improvement 6%.
5,000.00 Washington, Cal., Union High School District 5%.
1,000.00 Williams, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5½%.
25,000.00 Butte County, Cal., Highway 5%.
1,000.00 Contra Costa County, Cal., 5%.
15,000.00 Fresno County, Cal., 5%.
5,000.00 Merced County, Cal., 5%.
2,000.00 San Mateo County, Cal., Highway 5%.
7,000.00 Sonoma County, Cal., 5%.
5,000.00 California State Highway 4½%.
5,000.00 California State University Building 4½%.
Cash on hand, March 1, 1930, $58,261.64.
Books, Furniture and Equipment of the Library.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN H. WOOD, Secretary.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

San Francisco, March 6, 1930.

To the President and Board of Trustees, Mechanics Institute.

Gentlemen: I herewith submit the Seventy-fifth Annual Report of the Library for the year ending February 28, 1930.

Membership

March 1, 1929		4,336
Added—Subscribing	764	
Reinstated	11	775
		5,111
Withdrawn—Honorary (deceased)	1	
Life (deceased)	17	
Subscribing	668	686
Membership February 28, 1930		4,425

During the year sixteen subscribing members who had paid continuously for thirty years were granted life memberships.

The membership is divided as follows:

Honorary	2
Life	675
Subscribing	3,748
	4,425

Book Accessions

Number of volumes listed March 1, 1929		103,123
Added by purchase	5,371	
Added by binding	432	
Added by gift	429	6,232
		109,355
Less lost and paid for	48	
Discarded and lost	110	
Donated to institutions	500	658
Number of volumes listed February 28, 1930		108,697

Binding

982 volumes were rebound at the bindery and 2,837 volumes were repaired in the Library.

Gifts

3,056 unbound items, consisting of pamphlets, serials, and newspapers, were presented to the Library.

Accessions by Classes

	Purchased	Cost	Bound	Cost	Gifts	Total
General Works	72	$ 426.30	70	$ 156.10	16	158
Philosophy	159	405.31	3	6.00	9	171
Religion	55	144.37			6	61
Sociology	227	788.48	35	84.10	83	345
Philology	6	13.25				6

Science	86	390.78	61	126.65	19	166
Useful Arts	294	1,071.64	178	418.10	33	505
Fine Arts	217	885.57	64	151.90	2	283
Literature	409	819.63	3	6.00	115	527
Foreign Literature	11	14.79			62	73
Travel	224	792.22	4	8.90	15	243
Biography	393	1,345.01	2	4.00	26	421
History	190	695.45	12	25.20	40	242
Fiction and Children's Books	3028	5,336.61			3	3031
	5371	$13,129.41	432	$986.95	429	6232
Current Periodicals		2,796.64				
Total Cost				$16.913.00		

Circulation

There were issued for home use 208,552 volumes, an average of 17,379 volumes per month.

Table of Circulation Statistics

General Works	228	Foreign Fiction	1,093
Philosophy	3,781	Travel	8,622
Religion	1,253	Biography	10,567
Sociology	4,003	History	5,700
Philology	81	Fiction	142,301
Science	3,242	Children's Books	867
Useful Arts	6,722	Periodicals	2,721
Fine Arts	5,672		
Literature	10,825		
Foreign Literature	874		208,552

Fiction	143,394	volumes	68.76	per cent
Children's Books	867	"	0.42	" "
Non-fiction	64,291	"	30.82	" "

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCIS B. GRAVES, Librarian.

APPENDIX

Year Ending Feb. 28	Membership Subscribing	Membership Life and Honorary	Membership Total	Volumes in Library	Circulation
1930	3,748	677	4,425	108,697	208,552
1929	3,657	679	4,336	103,123	176,174
1928	3,789	703	4,492	98,195	165,253
1927	4,032	702	4,734	102,056	161,980
1926	4,030	690	4,723	98,696	164,347
1925	4,170	690	4,860	94,992	169,631
1924	4,356	652	5,008	91,433	172,712
1923	4,317	657	4,974	87,855	172,902
1922	4,160	646	4,806	84,056	175,502
1921	3,842	650	4,492	80,776	150,376
1920	3,408	649	4,057	77,140	128,480
1919	2,994	653	3,647	73,128	101,728
1918	3,135	590	3,725	70,055	118,159
1917	3,144	598	3,742	65,875	132,721
1916	2,982	617	3,599	63,672	127,866
1915	2,862	626	3,488	56,740	131,687
1914	2,709	632	3,341	50,776	125,650
1913	2,855	643	3,498	44,527	118,998
1912	2,660	644	3,304	39,266	110,194
1911	2,385	651	3,036	35,392	88,753
1910	1,717	645	2,362	32,186	71,741
1909	2,034	646	2,680	28,324	83,042
1908	2,120	643	2,763	24,179	.....
1907	2,726	651	3,377	17,850	.....
April 18, 1906	....	...	4,150	.....	.....

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE PUBLICATIONS

In Print.

Annual Reports, 1907 to date.

List of books on architecture. August, 1913.

List of books on building and building materials. December, 1913.

List of books on electrical engineering. June, 1916.

List of books on petroleum. January, 1917.

List of books on aeronautics and military and naval engineering. January, 1918.

List of books added, 1914 to date.